



GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS TO RESTORE THE SALTON SEA

The Salton Sea Authority and Bureau of Reclamation, working with Federal, State, Tribal and non-governmental organizations are leading efforts to restore the Salton Sea. We receive dozens of proposals each year to solve the Salton Sea's problems. The interest in saving the Sea is always appreciated. However, exhaustive evaluation of every proposal is not possible. Many proposals we receive rely on experimental or speculative technologies, provide little detail, lack cost estimates and/or inadequately define the "problem" they purportedly are addressing.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, we encourage you to first review at least two documents found at the Bureau of Reclamation's web site; www.lc.usbr.gov go to Salton Sea "button", then to "Environmental Documents"¹:

- Layperson's Guide to the Salton Sea Draft EIS/EIR
- Salton Sea Alternative Evaluation Final Report, 9/97

The Layperson's Guide will provide a good overview of the challenges faced in improving the Salton Sea. The 1997 Alternative Evaluation Final Report describes the dozens of alternatives that have been evaluated and, mostly, rejected for cost, technological, or other reasons. Much more information can be found on that web site and on a companion web site, www.salttonsea.ca.gov.

If you are still interested in submitting a proposal, we encourage you to follow the following format. Submittals with insufficient information will not be evaluated. Once a submittal is deemed sufficient, the Salton Sea Authority will respond to your proposal in writing within 90 days. This process does not obligate the Salton Sea Authority to reimburse your research and development, testing your technologies or otherwise funding your proposal. Please send your proposal to:

Salton Sea Authority
78-401 Highway 111, Ste. T
La Quinta, CA 92253
lquesnell@salttonsea.ca.gov

¹ Those without Internet access can contact the Bureau of Reclamation 702-293-8129 or Salton Sea Authority 760-564-4888 for more information.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS TO RESTORE THE SALTON SEA

PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

Please provide as much detail as possible, including specifications, designs, schematics, and/or maps.

1. Proposal Synopsis

Briefly describe your proposed technology or process and the problem(s) it solves. Provide contact information and a brief firm/personnel qualifications if applicable and appropriate (detailed qualifications are unnecessary but can be included in an appendix).

2. Problem Definition

Many proposals that we receive suggest that a particular technology or process will “fix” the Sea. Oftentimes the same proposals do not define what problem or issue is being fixed. The above referenced reports describe various physical qualities of the Sea, we suggest referring to these reports in your problem definition.

3. Design

How would the technology/process be applied at the Salton Sea? What type of facilities should be built? How many facilities are needed and where should they be located? What inputs into your system(s) are required and what are the outputs? How do you handle each? Characterize the type, volume and composition of waste streams and describe proposed disposal plans. What power requirements are there? How will your system respond, or design change, if inflows to the Sea are reduced? Many of the proposals we receive are for water treatment technologies that have been used in ecosystems or ponds that are 1% or less the size of the Salton Sea; scale your system appropriately to meet the needs identified under number two, problem definition.

4. Other Applications

Where has this technology or process been applied and what problem was it “solving” there? How successful was it? Can the efficacy of the solution be verified independently? If so, by whom (please provide contact information). Note that the Salton Sea Reclamation Act of 1998 requires us to consider “proven” technologies; consequently, such documentation of your solution’s application elsewhere is important.

5. Cost Estimate

Provide a cost estimate of building your solution at the Salton Sea (capital costs). Also provide an annual estimate of operations, maintenance, energy and replacement costs (OME&R). Are you proposing any unusual or special financing strategies or are there aspects of your system(s) that subsidize the cost or provide a profit?

6. Self-Evaluation

Is your proposal similar to one found in the referenced “Salton Sea Alternative Evaluation Final Report, 9/97”. If so and rejected therein, why should your proposal be considered now? How quickly will your system “fix” the problem identified (show calculations)? What indicators in/at the Sea should be used to measure your system’s performance (i.e. how will we know that it is working?)? Generally, what positive and negative environmental impacts will your project have? Describe how you could offset the negative impacts.